obvious to modify Fowler et al. to input the difference between the actual spacing and the nominal spacing manually.

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant believes it would be helpful to the Examiner to take notice that there are two "worlds" of producing envelopes from a moving web with printed matter thereon:

(a)   the so-called in-line method in which printing, scoring, cutting and folding takes place in one and the same machine, which is what Applicant's invention is directed to; and

(b)   the so-called off-line printing method in which the web has been printed on a separate machine, and weeks may pass before the web is used for producing envelopes.

The last case is rather complicated, as minor changes in the paper length (for example due to humidity) or slippage in the envelope machines, will add up to large registration errors. Therefore, in machines using off-line printed webs, the registration must be constantly monitored and corrected. To do so, the controller (computer) must constantly "know" the position of the image, the speed of the web, the position and

the speed of the cutters, and so on. A great deal of technical
effort is therefore required and this technical effort is what
Fowler describes and claims in his patent, which the Examiner
has cited against Applicant's claims.

In contrast, in accordance with Applicant's method, after
the phase position has once been adjusted, there is no need for
further corrections as in case (b). Although using the
technical effort of case (b) for a machine of case (a) might be
possible, it is a technical "overkill" as errors in paper length
or slippage do not add as printing and cutting tools are
afflicted in the same way.

As set forth in the claims, Applicant's invention provides
a method of producing letter envelopes from a moving web of
stock material and for positioning a sequence of printed images
in their correct positions in relation to a reference edge
within envelope blanks cut to size by shaping and separating
sections from a web of material after the printing process has
been completed. In accordance with the method recited in claims
1 and 2, a blank is removed from the machine and the actual
spacing of the printed image from a reference edge is
determined. The difference between the determined actual
spacing of the printed image from the reference edge and a
preset spacing value is computed and this difference is input as
a corrective value. In this way, the entire corrective movement

of the printing station vis-à- vis the cutting station is
triggered in one single step by presetting a numerical value.
The printing gear is not only adjusted very rapidly in this way,
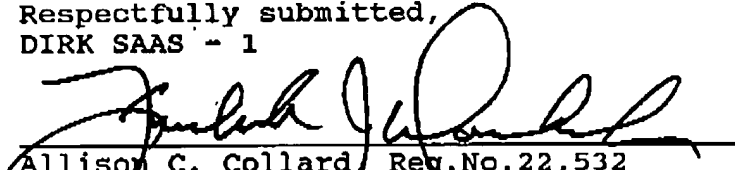but the amount of collected rejects is minimized as well.

Contrary to the Examiner's position, the Fowler patent
fails to disclose the removal of one of the blanks from the
machine to determine the spacing of a printed image from a
reference edge of the blank. Fowler also does not compute the
difference between this determined actual spacing and a preset
spacing value or input this computed difference. Rather, up to
column 6, line 56, Fowler simply discusses case (a) machines
which he takes as the state of the art without saying how these
machines are adjusted. In line 57 of column 6, Fowler begins to
talk about his invention, namely the addition of a print
registration system to the prior art machine or, in other words,
converting (a)-type machines into (b)-type machines. But here
too, Fowler never (1) determines the actual spacing of the
printed image from a reference edge of a blank, (2) computes the
difference between a preset spacing value and this determined
actual spacing or (3) inputs that difference as a corrective
value. The reason is that there is no need or advantage for
Fowler to determine this difference. As his controller "knows"
where the reference edge should be at a certain moment, it is
enough for Fowler to find out whether the edge is later or
earlier than anticipated. The controller will then increase or

decrease the speed of some feed rollers accordingly. See Column 8, lines 31-60. As Fowler never knows the difference between the determined actual spacing and a preset spacing value, there is no way for Fowler to input it whether automatically or manually. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Fowler fails to anticipate or render obvious claims 1 and 2.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
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COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802
FJD:jc

Allison C. Collard, Reg.No.22,532
Edward R. Freedman, Reg.No.26,048
Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg.No.29,298
Attorneys for Applicant

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

Fax No. 703-872-9302

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on October 3, 2002.

Frederick J. Dorchak

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TOTAL P.06